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ummer is a busy time for Library of Michigan staff working with various genealogy materials. Family historians take advantage of Michigan's beautiful summer weather and start planning research trips. Don't let the discouraging budget news scare you away. The Library's genealogy collection isn't going anywhere. We continue to purchase materials for the collection and staff the service desks during all of the Library's open hours. The Abrams Foundation Historical Collection of genealogical materials is a statewide (national?) resource. Be sure you make the Library of Michigan one of your research stops this summer.

On July 20-21 we will host the Abrams Genealogy Seminar at the Library of Michigan. Session topics will include "Beginning Your Genealogical Research," "Ontario and Quebec Vital Records," "The Do's and Don'ts of Cemetery Research" and "Utilizing the Gorski Polish Genealogy Collection," as well as sessions highlighting various libraries with family history collections in Michigan. The keynote address will be given by Colleen Fitzpatrick. Her talk will focus on the growing field of forensic genealogy. There is a registration fee of \$35 for the seminar. Attendees will receive a packet of handouts from all sessions and a box lunch on Saturday for their registration fee. For more information, contact the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300 or librarian@michigan.gov, or go to the registration form at http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory.

In the fall, there will be a change in genealogy databases available through MeL, the Michigan eLibrary. HeritageQuest will replace Ancestry Library Edition as the statewide genealogy database. Comparing these two databases is like comparing apples and oranges. They both have tremendous genealogical information, but they are unique in how they are structured and what records they make available. The largest difference is that HeritageQuest will allow remote access. In other words, family historians will be able to access the HQ resources from their home computer. It was necessary for users to visit their local library to gain access to Ancestry Library Edition. Look for more information and details about the switch as we approach October. Take a look at the comparison chart included in this edition of the newsletter to get a better understanding of each database.

Enjoy the summer weather, and don't forget to include the Library of Michigan in your travel plans this summer. I hope to see you at the Abrams Seminar on the 20th and 21st.

Happy searching!

Randy Riley Special Collections Manager Library of Michigan

Unlock the Mystery of Your Family's History with Help from Library of Michigan Seminar, July 20-2 I

Learn About Forensic Genealogy — Where 'CSI' Meets 'Roots' — As Well As Resources at Research Centers Around State

The Library of Michigan will offer family historians tips and tools for conducting genealogy research at several Michigan libraries featuring distinctive local and regional collections, including the library's own Abrams Foundation Historical Collection, during the 2007 Abrams Genealogy Seminar.

The seminar will take place Friday, July 20 and Saturday, July 21 at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in downtown Lansing.

"Beginning and advanced genealogists will have the opportunity to learn about several Michigan research centers and ask questions of the experts about how to maximize their research," said Randy Riley, special collections manager at the Library of Michigan. "Other sessions will focus on specific areas of family history research, emphasizing many of the diverse resources that make the Library of Michigan one of the top 10 genealogy collections in the country."

Colleen Fitzpatrick, author of "Forensic Genealogy" and "DNA & Genealogy," will present Saturday's keynote address – "Forensic Genealogy: An Overview" - co-sponsored by the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society. More information about Fitzpatrick is available on her Web site, http://www.forensicgenealogy.info.

"Forensic scientists and genealogists share the same goals: to find out who was who and who did what, when," Fitzpatrick said. "Forensic genealogy, which is sometimes called 'CSI Meets Roots,' shows genealogists how to use the tools of forensic science to solve their family mysteries, just like the FBI uses them to solve crimes."

Participants may mix and match sessions from two research tracks. The first will focus on popular research areas and highlight resources at the Library of Michigan, including: beginning genealogy, Ontario and Quebec vital records, Michigan state census records and naturalization records. The second track will feature sessions spotlighting the collections at the Library of Michigan, as well as:

- Archives of Michigan
- Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library
- Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University
- East Lansing Family History Center
- Kalamazoo Public Library
- Portage District Library

By providing an overview of key materials, research strategies and genealogy services at each institution, the 2007 Abrams Genealogy Seminar will help Michigan residents learn to use these resources more effectively.

Registration for the 2007 Abrams Genealogy Seminar is \$35. This includes a boxed lunch on Saturday and a seminar syllabus. Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society members are eligible for a discounted registration rate of \$20.

The complete schedule of events and registration form are available at http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory. Registrations will be accepted through the mail or directly at the Library of Michigan Foundation Office until Friday, June 20. If you have any questions, please contact the Library of Michigan's Special Collections Services at (517) 373-1300.

Home Access! Michigan Residents Can Tap into HeritageQuest Online

by Kris Rzepczynski, Michigan/Genealogy coordinator, Library of Michigan

Exciting news for Michigan residents!

Effective Oct. 1, and continuing for the next three years, all Michigan residents will be able to access HeritageQuest Online (HQ) from the comfort of their own home, via the Michigan eLibrary (mel.org). HQ is one of the most popular genealogy subscription databases, and the Library of Michigan is pleased to offer it to Michigan residents.

MeL is Michigan's "anytime, anywhere" library that provides Michigan residents with free, 24-hour access to excellent information resources, including full-text magazine, journal and newspaper articles—things not found in a traditional Internet search.

Many features make HeritageQuest a fantastic genealogical resource, such as the complete set of U.S. census images from 1790-1930, including head of household indexes for most of those years. HQ also contains thousands of digitized, fully searchable genealogies and local histories from across the United States; the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), a project of the Allen County (Ind.) Public Library that indexes thousands of genealogical society newsletters and journals; records of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, an important resource used in tracing African-American ancestors from the Civil War era that includes information on the accounts of many former slaves; and selected pension records of Revolutionary War soldiers. Many researchers also find the HQ search pages cleaner, more functional and easier to navigate, when compared to other databases.

Remote access to HQ also means that statewide access for Ancestry Library Edition (ALE) at Michigan libraries will expire. The Library of Michigan will continue to subscribe to ALE for on-site use, but availability of ALE across the state will vary. Check with your local

public library if you have questions about access to ALE in your community. Whether in the natural beauty of the Upper Peninsula or the urban energy of Metro Detroit, in the dead of night or with coffee and breakfast, Michigan residents can enjoy the wealth of genealogical records available through HQ from home, anywhere in the state at any time of the day. The Library of Michigan is excited to offer this resource to the Michigan genealogical community, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of it.

For additional information about HQ remote access or MeL, please contact the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300 or by e-mail at librarian@michigan.gov. Come October, happy searching!

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference Set for Aug. 15-18 in Fort Wayne

by Karen White, reference librarian, Library of Michigan

Genealogists in Michigan have a special opportunity this summer, with the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) 2007 Annual Conference being held in nearby Fort Wayne, Ind. Fort Wayne is less than an hour's drive from the Michigan/Indiana state line, so Michigan genealogists will be wise to take advantage of this great learning opportunity.

The FGS conference will be held on Aug. 15-18 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in downtown Fort Wayne. The convention center will house a large exhibit hall full of vendors displaying and demonstrating the latest in genealogical products, as well as seminars and special events. The theme of the conference will be "A Meeting at the Crossroads of America," and it will feature more than 200 sessions on a wide range of genealogy topics.

Sessions are to be offered in the following tracks:

- 20th Century Research
- African American Research
- Beginners
- British Isles Research
- Computers/Internet
- European Research
- Evidence
- Family History Center Support

- Genealogical Speakers Guild
- German Research
- Indiana Research
- Irish Research
- Land Records
- Library/Archives Research
- Methodology
- Midwestern Roots
- Migration

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Pentodical Source index (PERSIS). Competensive subject index Control of the	during 1851-1808. Here York immigration Collection: New York Teach State With Immages, New York Petitions for Naturalization with images. New York Petitions for Naturalization with images. New York Petitions for Naturalization with images. New Westernberg Emigration Index. Williams Records Collection. Williams Records Collection of Naturalization of Naturalization Index State Office of Naturalization Index Collection. Institute Office of Naturalization Index Emplayed Naturalization Index (Naturalization Index (Natura

U.S. Federal Census Comparison Char

Census Year	HQO Images	ALE Images	HQO Name Index	ALE Name Index
1790	Yes	Yes	Yes (Every Name)	Yes (Every Name)
1800	Yes	Yes	Yes (Every Name)	Yes (Every Name)
1810	Yes	Yes	Yes (Every Name)	Yes (Every Name)
1820	Yes	Yes	Yes (Every Name)	Yes (Every Name)
1830	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (Every Name)
1840	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (Every Name)
1850	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (Every Name)
1860	Yes	Yes	Yes (Head of Household)	Yes (Every Name)
1870	Yes	Yes	Yes (Head of Household)	Yes (Every Name)
1880	Yes	Yes	Yes (Every Name)	Yes (Every Name)
1890	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹ (Every Name)	Yes ¹ (Every Name)
1900	Yes	Yes	Yes (Head of Household)	Yes (Every Name)
1910	Yes	Yes	Yes (Head of Household)	Yes (Every Name)
1920	Yes	Yes	Yes (Head of Household)	Yes (Every Name)
1930	Yes	Yes	Partial (Head of Household)	Yes (Every Name)

ver 99 Percent of the 1890 population schedules were destroyed in a 1921 fire at the mmerce Building in Washington, D.C. Only the surviving census fragments are provide

Other	Schedule	
Outer	Concount	-

Other Gardana							
Census Year	HQO Images	ALE Images		HQO Name Index	ALE Name Inde:		
1850 Veterans	No	Yes		No	Yes (Every Name)		
1850 Slave	Yes ²	Yes		No	Yes (Every Name)		
1860 Slave	Yes ²	Yes		No	Yes		

³ Found in HQC's Browse Census Feature. Select the Year (1850 or 1850) and State. The select 'SLAVE' from the County lat.

f3 ProQuest CSA M

- Military Records
- Occupational Records
- The Poor and the Outcast
- Preservation & Photography
- Regional Topics
- Society Management
- Sources
- Writing and Publishing

With a special emphasis on the Midwest, there will be several sessions specific to Michigan or the Great Lakes. Some examples include:

- They Didn't Come from Vermont: Using the St. Albans Lists to Trace Midwest Immigration from Canada
- Ethnic Migration to Michigan
- Researching Sailors, Cooks, Captains and Roustabouts on the Great Lakes and Inland Rivers at the National Archives-Great Lakes Region
- Early Great Lakes Lighthouse Families

Conference attendees also will have the chance to visit and use the resources at the recently renovated Allen County Public Library, home to the largest collection of genealogy materials in any public library in the nation. The expanded library includes a cafe, bookstore, auditorium, art gallery, computer center and underground parking garage. The library, adjacent to the Grand Wayne Center, will offer free computer labs and extended hours in its Historical Genealogy Department during the conference.

For further information

The official FGS conference Web site has program, registration and lodging information: http://www.fgsconference.org

The Fort Wayne/Allen County Convention and Visitors Bureau has a Web site with information specifically for FGS conference attendees: http://www.visitfortwayne.com/fgs2007.html

The Allen County Public Library Web site includes directions and a map: http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/locations/index.html

The Allen County Public Library's Historical Genealogy Department site provides details about its collection: http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html.

Michigan Genealogical Council Presents Seminar on 21st Century Genealogy Techniques

Mark your calendars! The Michigan Genealogical Council will host a daylong seminar – 21st Century Techniques for the Genealogist: "I Didn't Know That" – on Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Library of Michigan. The cost will be \$25 with lunch and \$17 without lunch.

The seminar will feature the presentation of the Library of Michigan's Genealogy Appreciation Award and sessions on a variety of topics, including:

- Overview of the Library of Michigan's collection
- Archives of Interest to the Genealogist
- Highlights of HeritageQuest and Ancestry Library Edition
- Researching U.S. Federal Census Records
- The Intelligence Reform and Real ID Acts: Effecting Changes to Vital Records
- Michigan's Early Military Forces Prior to Civil War
- Effectively Using the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)
- Sources: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
- Finding Your Ontario Scots
- Township Sources
- Public Land Surveys in Michigan
- Citizen Military Training Camps and Civil Conservation Corp
- Digital Resource Solutions from Home
- "Wish I Had Thought of That" Procedures for the 21st Century
- Researching Your Polish Ancestors
- What About Other Programs in Your Computer for Genealogy?
- Irish Resources, Basic and Beyond
- WWI and II Sources

For more information, visit http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc or e-mail the MGC at seminar07@comcast.net. Look for more information in the fall *Michigan Genealogist* newsletter.

What's New at the Library of Michigan?

by Charles Hagler, reference librarian, Library of Michigan

Do you want to know what new Michigan and genealogy materials have been added to the Library of Michigan's collection? You can access ANSWER, our online catalog, on the Internet at www.answercat.org and search for monthly new materials by clicking on the "Check for New Books" button at the bottom of the ANSWER menu page.

Please note, many of our genealogical resources are part of the non-circulating collection and are only available for on-site use at the Library. ANSWER does not provide access to periodical articles, microforms or CD-ROM and Internet databases, but does indicate the location and call number where the item can be found in the Library of Michigan.

Here are a few notable titles that have arrived since the last issue of *Michigan Genealogist*.

Census of Canada, 1911. Ottawa, ON: Library and Archives Canada, 200-Microfilm HA 741.5 1911

The Fifth General Census of Canada began on June 1, 1911, and collected information related to each inhabitant of the country, including place of habitation, marital status, age, place of birth, religion, occupation, education, etc. The Census of Canada 1911 covered the nine provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) and two territories (the Yukon and the Northwest Territories) that were then part of the Confederation. There is an online version at www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/. This database of 1911 census data allows researchers to search by geographic location only; it is not searchable by family name. The information on these images can be used to prepare family or town/village histories, research immigration trends and a great deal more. The Abrams Foundation was the generous donor of this acquisition.

Slater, Stephen. The History and Meaning of Heraldry: An Illustrated Reference to Classic Symbols and their Relevance. London: Southwater, 2004.

Genealogy CR 151 .S53 2004

Part of the collection of more than 14 heraldry titles that was added to our holdings through a generous donation by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Michigan Daughters of the American Revolution.

White, Lorraine Cook. *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1994-2002.

Genealogy F 104 .A58 W48 1994

The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records was named for Lucius Barnes Barbour, state examiner of public records from 1911-1934, under whose direction began the project to create an abstract of births, marriages and deaths transcribed from pre-1850 records of Connecticut towns in the Connecticut State Library (www.cslib.org/barbour.htm). We have acquired 31volumes of the 55-volume volume set through the generous donation of Glenn Bachelder.

Oppenheimer, Stephen. The Origins of the British: A Genetic Detective Story: The Surprising Roots of the English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh. New York: Carroll & Graf, 2006.

Genealogy DA 120 .O67 2006

This book and *Saxons, Vikings and Celts* in the next paragraph explore the origins of the English, Scots and Irish through their DNA and how much they have evolved as a people.

Sykes, Bryan. Saxons, Vikings and Celts: The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland.

New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006.

Genealogy GN 290.G7 S95 2006

This book's table of content is available online at http://www.loc.gov/catdir/toc/ecip073/2006033178.html.

A Gift to Yourself

by Judith K. Moore, executive director, Library of Michigan Foundation

Generosity is a virtue through which everyone feels great satisfaction.

Making a charitable gift can be heartwarming and provide a tax incentive. When most people consider giving to support a charity, they think of writing a check. The Library of Michigan Foundation receives many generous gifts this way each year. But more and more charities are receiving a wide variety of special gifts.



FOUNDATION

For many donors, the largest gift of a lifetime may come only through their estate plan. For others, larger gifts are possible only if certain personal and family financial goals are met first. There are several planned giving tools available to ensure that a donor can give more while making sure he or she takes care of important financial issues. For example, a charitable remainder trust offers a way to arrange a meaningful gift to a charity while first providing income for yourself and/or others.

A will or living trust, a life insurance or retirement plan/IRA beneficiary designation can be a wonderful way to provide gifts that will improve the lives of others in the future. It can be gratifying indeed to know that a portion of your property will be put to good use after you no longer need it.

We invite you to become a member of the Legacy Society of the Library of Michigan Foundation by making a planned gift commitment to the future of the Library of Michigan. A gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation in support of the genealogy collection is a gift to yourself. You'll have the gratification of knowing you are helping to strengthen one of the largest genealogy collections in the country.

Feel free to contact me at (517) 373-4470 or at moorej10@michigan.gov to request additional information, without obligation.

Civil War Unit Histories Offer Insight into Lives of Soldier Ancestors

by Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian, Library of Michigan

Resources such as the *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865* and the 1890 Civil War Veterans Census provide information regarding a soldier's rank, company and regiment, as well as dates of enlistment and discharge. While that information alone is a boon to family history researchers, many genealogists wonder what a soldier experienced in the time between mustering in and mustering out of service to his country.

A microfiche set called *Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives* brings together in one collection the experiences of many units, as well as writings by thousands of individual soldiers, published between 1861 and 1920. Examples of the types of materials found in this collection are: letters, diaries, memoirs, funeral remarks, sermons, unit rosters, personal sketches, prison accounts, survivor lists, addresses delivered at Civil War anniversary events and regiment reunion proceedings. In addition, the *Civil War Unit Histories* collection includes reports from state and federal adjutant generals' offices and state-level histories of the war.

Soldiers' Stories

Union soldiers began writing memoirs during the war, while only a handful of Confederate soldiers wrote accounts during the war, according to A Guide to the Microfiche Edition of Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives. For both sides, more complete regimental histories came in time.

There are four major types of Civil War narrative:

- Letters, which provide an immediate sense of what soldiers endured.
- Diaries, which often were written with only family in mind, making them quite narrow in their appeal; some were manufactured at a later date.
- Memoirs, which were written after the fact; while some were expanded, edited and checked for accuracy using diaries written during the war, others were written from memory and contain factual errors or embellishments.
- Regimental histories, which describe a unit's movement, battles it fought in and other details of war.

Depending on the writer, these pieces may contain information on a soldier's feelings about why he joined up, leaving home, adjusting to camp life or surviving imprisonment; a record of troop movements and combat happenings; and opinions about other soldiers, commanding officers, the enemy and the politics of the war. In reading these narratives, it is important to consider when, why, how and with what source the material was written because these all speak to the reliability of the narrative.

One Soldier

The Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865 provides the following information on one of Michigan's soldiers:

"Ferry, Noah H., White River. Entered service in company F, Fifth Calvary, at organization, as Captain, Aug 11, 1862, at White River, age 31. Commissioned Aug 14, 1862. Mustered Aug 28, 1862. Commissioned Major Dec. 1, 1862. Killed in action at Gettysburg, Pa., July 3, 1863." (Vol. 35, Page 54)

Much more information about this soldier is available in the *Civil War Unit Histories*, as the minister who performed his funeral — the Rev. David Mack Cooper, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven — published a description of Major Ferry's funeral, including everything from the words of the hymns sung and the Scripture passages read to the text of the pastor's sermon, which discussed the man, the war and the times in which they lived, even quoting from Major Ferry's letters home.

Using the Source

At the Library of Michigan, A *Guide to the Microfiche Edition of Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives* is shelved on the index tables behind the genealogy desk. The index is broken into five parts:

- Part 1. The Confederate States of America and Border States
- Part 2. The Union & New England
- Part 3. The Union & Mid-Atlantic
- Part 4. The Union & Midwest and West
- Part 5. The Union æ Higher and Independent Commands and Naval Forces

The index is arranged by state, then branch of service and unit, and finally by the last name of the author. Included for each item indexed is the author, title of the piece and a list of major engagements for the regiment covered. he index also indicates if an item includes a roster.

The Michigan Index begins with general references, such as state and federal adjutant general reports, and then is organized by unit. For each unit, a list is given of locations where the majority of troops in that regiment came from, and the date they mustered in. The index entry for the Rev. Cooper's funeral proceedings demonstrates what is included:

MI 119: Cooper, David Mack. Obituary Discourse of the Death of Noah Henry Ferry, Major of the Fifth Michigan Cavalry, Killed at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. New York: John F. Trow, 1863. 46 pp.

Defenses of Washington, D.C.; Hanover, PA; Gettysburg, PA.

The number at the beginning of this entry is the number of the microfiche card that contains this item. The microfiche is shelved in the Genealogy Microfilm Room in the fiche cabinet. The drawers are marked *Civil War Unit Histories*, and the states in each are designated on the outside of the drawer.

War of the Rebellion, Another Useful Federal Document

by Leelyn Johnson, reference and documents coordinator, Library of Michigan

Anyone interested in the Civil War would find *War of the Rebellion* a wealth of information. The U.S. Government Printing Office published *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* from 1880-1901. The United States War Department compiled both Union and Confederate armies' original reports, correspondence, orders and other documents on all military operations, prisoners of war, calls for troops and correspondence between national and state authorities, along with annual and special reports of the secretary of war, the general-in-chief and the chiefs of the several staff corps and departments.

The set is made up of four series, with each covering a specific aspect of the Civil War. Series I, the largest with 53 volumes, has formal reports of seizures of U.S. property in Southern states and all military operations in the field, including correspondence and orders relating to the operations. The documents are arranged by campaigns and theaters in chronological order of the events, with Union reports followed by Confederate accounts. Series II-IV include documents relating to prisoners of war and to state or political prisoners, reports, correspondence and orders from Union authorities to the Confederate officials and from Confederate authorities to the Union officials, that are not related to the earlier series' subjects.

A compilation for the navies, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, was published by the War Department between 1894 and 1922. Besides the print copies of both titles available here at the Library of Michigan, they are accessible through the Making of America digital library at cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/moa_browse.html. The titles have live links on the Browse page.

The first-person accounts of campaigns and battles make for an exciting read. If you have wanted to know more about an ancestor's experience in the Civil War, the history of a particular regiment or firsthand accounts of a battle, you will find that and much more.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion. 30 vols. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922.

Genealogy E 591.U582 1987

Docs Reference N16.6:

United States. War Department. War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 128 vols. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901.

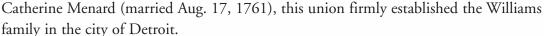
Genealogy E 464 .U6 1971

Federal Documents W 45.5:

Brigadier General Thomas Williams

by Edwina Morgan, reference librarian, Library of Michigan

People of interest are sometimes missed by the media and then by historians. One such Michiganian was General Thomas Williams, son of Detroit's John R. Williams and Mary Mott. The first Williams to move to Detroit was General Williams' grandfather, Thomas Williams of Albany, N.Y. On May 7, 1781, the senior Thomas Williams was married to Mary Cecilia Campau by Commandant Arendt Schuyler de Peyster. As Mary was the daughter of the French-Detroit family of James Campau and





Brigadier General Thomas Williams

One son of Thomas and Mary Williams, John R. Williams, was also engaged in the military as a captain and later became a general. He went on to become a merchant and served as mayor of Detroit for six different terms between 1824 and 1846. John R. Williams served in the War of 1812 and was taken prisoner when Detroit fell to the British. It was at this juncture that the family temporarily resided outside of Michigan. After being released, he lived in Albany, N.Y., where he met and married Mary Mott. Their son Thomas was born in Albany on January 16, 1815. By 1816, the entire family was once again in Detroit. In 1832, John R. Williams commanded a division of Michigan troops in the Black Hawk War, where Thomas first served under his father as a trumpeter when he was a private.

Thomas was appointed to West Point from Michigan in 1833 and graduated in 1837. Between his graduation and the outbreak of the Civil War, Williams served continuously while moving up the ranks. He was stationed in the warm climates of Florida and Mexico, as well as the far West, in Utah. In 1840-1841, he had a brief respite as a professor of mathematics at the U.S. Military Academy. He became captain, Fourth Artillery, in 1850, serving at Fort Columbus, New York and then took command at Fort Mackinac in 1852.

On Mackinac Island, he met and married Mary Neosho Bailey, daughter of Dr. Joseph H. Bailey. It is through several letters written to his wife that we get a personal glimpse of General Williams prior to his death at the Battle of Baton Rouge on Aug. 5, 1862. His letters were saved and published by one of his sons, Gersham Mott Williams, Episcopal bishop of Detroit.

Many relatives have published works concerning their deceased military family members. Elizabeth Bacon Custer, George Custer's wife, is generally credited for her husband's posthumous media fame, which stands to this day. Few critical histories of the Civil War were written in the North in the decades following the war. Most published works were, like Elizabeth Custer's, overly complimentary in nature. What makes General Thomas Williams different is that he was lauded by adversaries during his military duty, one of which was a young diarist from Baton Rouge, Sarah Morgan.

Sarah Morgan wrote *A Confederate Girl's Diary*, which was published by her son in 1913. In her Civil War notebooks, which began in 1861 and ended in 1865, she claimed that she hated all Yankees and always would. Sarah's diaries have been greatly studied, not just because of their detailed narrative on the war, but because she was marked as a strong feminist because of her outlook on marriage and the role of women in society.

Sarah Morgan was the daughter of a prominent Baton Rouge judge, who died in 1861, just prior to the outbreak of war. This left Sarah, her sister Miriam, and their mother, Sarah Hunt Fowler Morgan, living in Baton Rouge alone, as all but one of the living sons were serving in the Confederate army or navy. For this family of three women, General Thomas Williams was to become an embarrassing exception to their proclaimed hatred of all Yankees.

In 1862, Thomas Williams was assigned to the brigade of Benjamin F. Butler's forces, which had the task of opening up the lower Mississippi River from New Orleans to Baton Rouge on to Vicksburg, Miss. The entire campaign was known as the Expedition of the Mississippi. General Williams oversaw the 9th Connecticut, 21st Indiana, 14th Maine, 30th Massachusetts, 6th Michigan, 7th Vermont and 4th Wisconsin infantry regiments while in Baton Rouge.

On March 29, 1862, Williams wrote his wife a letter that contained themes often repeated in his letters: concern for family, admiration for troops and belief in God.

John and Mott would feel quite Martial if they could see papa's brigade on drill or review. They look well and Soldierly and move well. I don't believe the other side has any as good. And besides, having our quarrel just, we are thrice armed. Armed also I trust with the Arm that gives all victory and all good.

Later, on June 8, the embarrassed yet impressed Sarah Morgan wrote in her diary of the federal troops drilling in front of her house, "They drilled splendidly, and knew it, too ... one conceited red-headed lieutenant smiled at us in the most fascinating way; perhaps he smiled to think how fine he was."

The Morgan family's first encounter with the general was not so cordial. During a preliminary skirmish in Baton Rouge, Williams offered Miriam Morgan a military chaperone when he found out that she was without an escort. His offer was refused, and he was told, "She felt perfectly safe on that road," indicating openly to him that the road was occupied by guerilla rebel forces. In fact, Miriam was meant to be delivering information to the rebels as to the safest way into the city later that day. The rebel forces she reported to scolded her for not accepting the escort, as it was a missed opportunity for an ambush on the

part of the guerillas. Sarah wrote in her diary pertaining the general's offer, "He must be a Miriam Morgan good man."

The animosity of the enemy, particularly the women of Louisiana, was noted in Williams' letter home on June 11: "One can hardly imagine that these people of Louisiana ever had any attachment for the Union ... often do we find the women ... for the most part almost violent ... I look upon them and think of fallen angels."

Benjamin Butler in fact even passed down mandates for the punishment of Confederate women should they insult federal troops. Ironically, the senior Judge Morgan was against secession and his eldest son, a judge in New Orleans, was outwardly pro-Union throughout the war.

By June 4, Miriam Morgan returned to the general more humbled. The Morgan women were evacuating the town, again temporarily, and – fearing that their house would be taken over and destroyed – Mrs. Morgan sent Miriam to General Williams with the keys to their house. She was to turn over the keys to the general and ask, in return, that their home not be harmed. Williams called Miriam by name and, in response to the request, offered to have their house guarded. The guard was declined, as the Morgan women feared that it would cause mistrust from their friends and neighbors.

In truth, the Morgans did suffer for their fondness and reliance upon the general and his aide, James C. Biddle, who was held in high regard by both the Williams and Morgan families. Biddle visited the Morgan home once to check in on the family. Pertaining his visit Sarah wrote, "I like him, and was sorry I could not ask him to repeat his visit. We are not accustomed to treat gentlemen that way; but it won't do in the present state to do as we please. Mob Governs." The following Sunday, June 8, the Morgans met General Williams in church, of which Sarah wrote, "General Williams bowed profoundly...we returned the salute of course. But by tomorrow, those he did not bow to will cry treason against us. Let them howl. I am tired of lies, scandal and deceit." General Williams had sent the widow Morgan and the girls a barrel of flour, a very scarce commodity in the Confederacy already in the summer of 1862, with a note that read, "in consideration of the present condition of circulating currency," referring to the Morgans' devalued Confederate notes. This time it was Sarah who was given the task of writing the general a note of thanks, a task she did not find easy, writing, "And to think that it is out of our power to prove them our appreciation of the kindness we have universally met with!" She again was referring to the pressure they felt from friends and neighbors questioning their loyalty.

At this time the Morgan family had two sons, Gibbs and George, serving in the Confederate Army and one son, James, in the Navy. Only James survived the war. Both Gibbs and George would die from disease.

Already on June 1, Mrs. Morgan was concerned, as she knew yellow fever or malaria would break out soon in the federal camp near their home. As it came to



Sarah Hunt Fowler Morgan

pass, disease has been credited with reducing the number of troops under Williams. On July 20, while overseeing a canal around Vicksburg, Williams wrote his wife that half of his troops were on the sick list. This number included his aide Biddle. Rumor had reached the Morgan household that Mr. Biddle had died at Vicksburg, but in fact, he was to die of his illness after having been sent north for medical treatment.

Williams was now fighting malaria as well as Confederates. Having served previously in areas where malaria was problematic, he was well aware of the hardship, but his troops from northern states were volunteers and did not have the same experience as Williams. He wrote to his wife, "I shall instruct them (the army) to inquire into the causes of disease, and the means of preventing or at least modifying." Williams was informed by the locals that the people of the area did suffer from the same disease at the same percentage, and that it spared no one. On July 21, Williams sent 1,100 sick troops back to Baton Rouge from Vicksburg to recover. By this date he reported that two-thirds of his troops were unfit for duty.

While Williams was still in Vicksburg working on a canal to divert the Mississippi River around that city, Sarah was in Baton Rouge observing the sick federal troops returning to the city.

This town, with its ten thousand soldiers, is more quiet than it was with its old population of seven thousand citizens. With this tremendous addition, it is like a graveyard, in its quiet, at times. These poor soldiers are dying awfully. Thirteen went yesterday. On Sunday the boats discharged hundreds of sick at our landing. Some lay there all the afternoon in the hot sun, waiting for the wagons to carry them to the hospital, which task occupied the whole evening. In the meantime these poor wretches lay uncovered on the ground, in every stage of sickness. Cousin Will saw one lying dead without a creature by to notice when he died. Another was dying, and muttering to himself as he lay too far gone to brush the flies out of his eyes and mouth, while no one was able to do it for him. Cousin Will helped him though. Another, a mere skeleton lay in the agonies of death too; but he evidently had kind friends, for several were gathered around holding him up, and fanning him, while his son leaned over him crying aloud. Tiche (a Morgan slave) says it was dreadful to hear the poor boy's sobs.

All day our vis-à-vis Baumstark (undertaker) with his several aids plies his hammer; all day Sunday he made coffins, and says he can't make them fast enough. Think, too, he is by no means the only undertaker here! O I wish these poor men were safe in their own land! It is heartbreaking to see them die here like dogs, with no one to say Godspeed.

Williams returned from Vicksburg himself on July 26, but the reduction of federal troops could hardly have gone unnoticed by the Confederate guerillas always on the outskirts of Baton Rouge. General Williams was expecting an attack. Williams' last letter home was written on Sunday, July 27: "Good bye, my own wife. Love to Cousins. Kisses to J.M.S. and X (youngest infant son not yet named)." On Aug. 2, the Morgan family was warned by Confederate friends that General John C. Breckinridge was advancing on Baton Rouge, with ten thousand men to attack, and was within 35 miles of the city.

General Williams provided the Morgans with the required pass to leave the city. On Aug. 3, General Williams took communion at the Morgan family's Episcopal church and by Aug. 4, the three ladies were housed at a family friend's plantation five miles east of the city.

Williams was engaged in battle by 4 a.m. Aug. 5 against two divisions of the Confederate army under Breckinridge, former vice president of the United States and a presidential candidate in the 1860 election. Williams was killed leading the 21st Indiana Regiment in a bayonet charge after they had lost all officers. He is credited with preventing the city from falling back into Southern hands. The Confederate side of the conflict relied upon rumors for information, and on Aug. 6, while seeking news of the battle, Sarah got a harsh report of Williams' death:

Noémie, told us that two western regiments had laid down their arms, and General Williams had been killed by his own men. She looked so delighted, and yet it made me sick to think of is having been butcherd so...an eye witness, from this side, reports that General Williams "they say" was forcibly held before a cannon and blown to pieces. For the sake of humanity I hope this is false.

Some 20th century historians have addressed how General Williams died and focused on the fact that troops under him blamed the general for the malaria epidemic in the ranks. On Aug. 9, the Morgan family did learn that General Williams was killed by a sniper with a rifle ball to the chest. Within three weeks, he was buried in his family's plot in Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit, section A2, lot 46. One of the criticisms against him with regard to his command at Baton Rouge was that he placed the

troop tents in the best shade possible as opposed to the best layout for defense.

Widowed at age 26, Mary Neosho Williams never remarried. Her summer home still stands as a museum in Evergreen, Colo. Their son, John R., became a colonel in the United States Army. Gersham Mott Williams served as an Episcopal reverend in Michigan for most of his career, moving to Europe to act as the head of the American Episcopal Church at the end of his service. His summer home still stands on Grosse Ile. In 1889, daughter Josepha, born in 1861, graduated from Gross Medical School in Denver and became one of Colo

1861, graduated from Gross Medical School in Denver and became one of Colorado's first female physicians.



Dr. Josepha Williams

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How Lansing's Trolley System Fell Off the Tracks

by Robert Garrett, Archives of Michigan

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in Lansing's City Pulse newspaper on May 2, 2006

(lansingcitypulse.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=130&Itemid=9999 9999). It is part of a series of features, written by Archives of Michigan staff, that explores Lansing's history.

Trolley cars are now nostalgic reminders of simpler days, but they have not always drawn a smile. "Give our fair city a break and kick the damn squealing, howling, grinding, rumbling trolley cars out of it and substitute buses," a man named Harry Lee wrote to Lansing's mayor in 1931. "Try living on a trolley street, especially near a corner and see how quickly how you will go crazy."

Lee scribbled the words on an editorial he clipped from the Automotive Daily News, entitled "The Trolley Must Go!" The editorial complained that trolleys, which traveled in the middle of the street and made frequent stops, were slow-moving vehicles that obstructed traffic. "If there is any anachronism more firmly blocking progress in city transportation today than the trolley car," the editorial read, "we should be glad to hear about it."

But the souring romance had a rosy start more than 40 years earlier. The *Lansing State Republican* declared it "a red-letter day in the history of the capital city," when Lansing's new electric street railway launched on Aug. 26, 1890. This first trolley, the "Dauntless," made its trial run with owners H.L. Hollister and M.D. Skinner on board.



Top: A Lansing Transportation Company crew strikes a pose, circa 1920. (Photos courtesy Archives of Michigan)

Bottom: A streetcar travels along Washington Avenue circa 1915. (Photos courtesy Archives of Michigan) Electric trolleys, which typically traveled at 20 miles an hour, were much faster than the horse-drawn trolleys they replaced. Lansing's horse-drawn railway (the rails helped horses navigate Lansing's muddy streets) had been in existence a mere four years. The wooden tracks were uprooted and heavier, iron tracks were laid in their place.

The electric railway followed the same two routes as the horse railway: One track ran along Washington Avenue, from the Grand Trunk Railroad Depot north to Franklin Street (now North Grand River Avenue), then east to Cedar Street, while the second track ran east along Michigan Avenue to the city limits.

More tracks were soon laid. By 1895, trolley passengers could travel as far west as Logan Street (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) and as far east as the State Agricultural College (now Michigan State University). City transportation seemed to have reached its golden age. But problems soon followed; Hollister and Skinner defaulted on their loan, and in October 1892, New York City investors took over the Lansing City Electric Railway Company and let the equipment run down. By the early 1900s, Lansing's street railway service was deemed the worst in Michigan, if not the nation. James Hammel organized a public campaign for improvement, and ownership changed in 1903.

A series of extensions, including electrification of an existing steam line from Lansing to St. Johns, led to the 1906 consolidation of Lansing and other mid-Michigan lines under the rubric of the Michigan United Railway. In 1916, the Michigan United leased its lines to the Michigan Railway Company, which operated an interurban network that ran through Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Electric interurban trains were slower than the larger, more familiar steam engine rail-road trains. But unlike the railroad trains, the interurban trains were designed for short-distance travel. They went some places that railroad trains couldn't and made more frequent station stops. Interurban service continued to expand in mid-Michigan, with service between Lansing and Mason added in November 1908, from Mason to Leslie and then to Jackson the following year, and between Lansing and Owosso in 1911.

By the early 1920s, the electric railway began to recede as automobiles, buses and touring cars competed for passengers. The Michigan Railway Company went out of business in 1929, officially ending mid-Michigan's interurban era.

Trolley service continued within Lansing for four more years, but calls to end electric railways — like the frustrated letter from Harry Lee — mounted. Electric railways once brought faster and easier access to all areas of the city. Now, they were largely deemed a hindrance to motor vehicles.

Trolley service officially ended in Lansing on April 15, 1933, replaced by bus service. Lansing's trolley era lasted 43 years, from 1890 to 1933. Residents cheered when it arrived and cheered again when it departed.

Oral History Project to Commemorate 50 Years of the Mackinac Bridge

The Mackinac Bridge stands as a symbol and proud achievement of our great state. Imagine the feelings of those who worked to make it happen. Soon, their experiences will be available to future generations.

The Archives of Michigan will partner with the Michigan Oral History Association (MOHA) in an important endeavor. MOHA members (including Archives staff) will conduct oral history interviews with people who planned, photographed and worked on the Mackinac Bridge's construction from 1954 to 1957.

The Mackinac Bridge 50th anniversary celebration, taking place in St. Ignace July 26-28, will lend special impetus to the proceedings. Oral historians will be there to record interviews, using a special mobile recording studio furnished by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The resulting recordings will be transcribed. The recordings and transcriptions will be permanently housed in the Archives of Michigan for preservation and future research.

For more information see the Michigan Oral History Association's Web site at www.michiganoha.org/projects.html. Interested individuals (including prospective participants) also may contact Bob Garrett at garrettr1@michigan.gov.

Experience Michigan History at Museum Sites Statewide

This summer, discover the fun and fascination of Michigan's past at one of the Michigan Historical Museum sites around the state. The 11 museums and historic sites affiliated with the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing—located statewide from Cambridge Junction to Copper Harbor—offer unique and enjoyable experiences for visitors of all ages to explore Michigan's rich heritage.

These museums and historic sites tell the stories of the people who shaped this state – iron miners, loggers, French missionaries, lighthouse keepers, Victorian-era children and others. These stories, along with a variety of events, demonstrations, lectures and hands-on activities, help visitors make a personal connection to the past. For more information, visit http://www.michiganhistory.org.



Special events at Michigan Historical Museum sites this summer include:

Through Aug. 17 – Fort Wilkins, 1870: A Living History Experience at Fort Wilkins in Copper Harbor

Role-playing interpreters bring history to life at the 1844 fort, Sunday through Thursday

July 21 – Fort Wilkins by Candlelight at Fort Wilkins in Copper Harbor Experience the fort in the magical glow of candlelight.

July 22 – **Wood Shaving Days** at Hartwick Pines Logging Museum in Grayling The entire family will enjoy woodwork crafts, sawmill demonstrations, 19th century music and more.

July 24-Aug. 7 – Tuesday Afternoon Lecture Series at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee

- July 17 The Archaeology of Grand Island: Five Seasons of Field Work on Lake Superior's Shoreline
- July 24 'Quite an Experiment:' CCI Attempts to Promote Agriculture on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 1895-1915
- July 31 Lumberjack, Lover and Inventor: A Danish Immigrant's Story in the Upper Peninsula
- Aug. 7 Mining's Our Bread, but Skiing's Our Soul: Carl Tellefsen and Norwegian Leadership Pioneering American Skiing
- Aug. 21 The Cornish in Michigan

July 25-Aug. 22 – Wednesdays at Walker at Walker Tavern in Brooklyn Children and their adult partners have fun discovering Michigan's past together:

July 25 – Pioneer Tea

Aug. 8 – Keeping Family History

Aug. 22 – Introduction to Weaving

July 29 – Civil War Living History Encampment, Battery D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery at Fort Wilkins in Copper Harbor

The sights and sounds of the Civil War come to Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.

July 28 – Concord Antique Auto Show and Heritage Day at Mann House in Concord

Children's games, music and more!

July 28-29 – Discoverers and Surveyors: Exploring the Upper Peninsula at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee

The Michigan Museum of Surveying sets up a surveying encampment on the grounds of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum. Highlights include a display of early surveying instruments, survey demonstrations, guest speakers and fascinating geological specimens.

Aug. 4 – Walker on Wheels at Walker Tavern in Brooklyn

This show featuring vintage cars and campers celebrates Michigan's auto heritage and spirit of adventure.

Aug. 4-5 – Vintage Baseball Weekend at Hartwick Pines Logging Museum in Grayling

Take in a 19th century baseball game.

Aug. 11 – **Fayette Heritage Day** at Fayette Historic Townsite in Garden Come celebrate the fun side of 19th century life.

Aug. 11 – Forest Fest at Hartwick Pines Logging Museum in Grayling Discover the ecology and the natural history of the forest.

Aug 11-12 – **Iron Ore and the Civil War** at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee

This Civil War encampment brings the historic era to life.

Aug 25-26 – **Black Iron Days** at Hartwick Pines Logging Museum in Grayling The largest gathering of blacksmiths in Michigan!

Sept. 1 – **Walker Frontier Fest** at Walker Tavern in Brooklyn Explore southern Michigan's pioneer heritage.

A-Hunting We Will Go: Deer Hunting in Michigan Coming to the Michigan Historical Museum

A-Hunting We Will Go: Deer Hunting in Michigan, a new exhibit at Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, opens Aug. 4 and runs through

Deer hunting is an enormously popular sport in Michigan, with more than 700,000 hunters taking to the woods every fall in hopes of bagging one of the more than 1.7 million white-tailed deer that live in our forests and fields.

But it wasn't always this way.

For thousands of years, before Europeans arrived in Michigan in the early 17th century, Native Americans relied on deer for food and as a source for bone tools and other byproducts. In the late 19th century, most deer hunting was done by professional hunters to acquire venison to sell as provisions for logging companies and railroad construction crews. During the early 20th century, deer hunting became a sporting endeavor, but could only be enjoyed – for the most part – by the wealthy, who had the leisure time, the money and the travel capability to go on hunting trips.

It wasn't until the automotive industry gave the general public access to good-paying jobs, cars and vacation time that deer hunting became the popular and widespread Michigan sport that it is today.

Over time, hunting has changed dramatically – from the weaponry and gear to the hunting culture. *A-Hunting We Will Go* will tell the story of deer hunting in Michigan, with a brief glimpse at its beginnings and an emphasis on the period from the mid-19th century to today.

In association with the exhibit programming, the museum will be collaborating with the Michigan Oral History Association to gather deer-hunting oral histories. Details of this effort are being worked out.

The Michigan Historical Museum is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center, across the rotunda from the Library of Michigan. Admission is free. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and, Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit us at http://www.michigan.gov/museum or call (517) 373-3559, TDD (517) 373-1592.

Publisher's Note:

The Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) electronically publishes *Michigan Genealogist* on a quarterly basis. It is intended to provide family history-related information to interested researchers and to inform readers about resources found in the Library of Michigan, Archives of Michigan and other HAL units.

We encourage wide distribution of this newsletter and invite readers to share it with their friends, families and fellow researchers. We have made every effort to provide accurate information. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions related to any of the issues of *Michigan Genealogist*.

If you would like to be added to our list of e-mail subscribers, please contact HAL at librarian@michigan.gov.

Driving Directions and Parking:

Information concerning driving directions and parking can be located at the following Web sites.

Driving Directions: http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160—55205,00.html

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Research:

Due to the length of time needed to conduct genealogical research, the staff of the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan is unable provide extensive research services. Check the Library of Michigan's and Archives of Michigan's Web pages at http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan and http://www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi for more information on policies and procedures regarding genealogical research.

Ask A Librarian:

Genealogy queries can be sent to the Library of Michigan at librarian@michigan.gov. While staff members cannot do extensive research, they can point you in the right direction and assist you in determining if the library's collection contains the information you seek. If necessary, the library's staff will refer you to a researcher or local genealogical society that will conduct research for a fee. Questions relating to the Archives of Michigan should be sent to archives@michigan.gov.